

Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /035 W

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O P 050425Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2277

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH: DEPARTURE STATEMENT (VIET NAM)

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED STATEMENT FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH
ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM MARCH 7, 1974:

2. BEGIN TEXT: MY VISIT HAS BEEN BRIEF BUT ILLUMINATING AND
MOST ENCOURAGING. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO ME,
MY WIFE AND OUR PARTY BY OUR VIETNAMESE HOSTS AND FOR THE ASSISTANCE
OF AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND HIS STAFF. THEY HAVE MADE CERTAIN THAT
OUR TIME WAS FULLY DEVOTED TO THE IMPORTANT MATTERS WHICH ARE OF
CONCERN TO OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

3. I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT THIEU, PRIME
MINISTER KHIEM, AND FOREIGN MINISTER BAC. THEY HAVE GIVEN ME THEIR
VIEWS ON THE SITUATION. OUR DISCUSSIONS HAVE CONFIRMED TO ME THE
WISDOM OF OUR COMMON POLICIES. I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH
THE PATIENCE AND SKILL WITH WHICH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT,
DESPITE ALL DIFFICULTIES, IS SEEKING TO BRING ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED THAT THE RELEASE
OF DETAINEES, STALLED FOR MONTHS, IS NOW AT LAST NEARING AN END. THIS
IS DUE TO THE INITIATIVES AND DIPLOMATIC SKILL OF REPUBLIC OF
VIET NAM. I ADMIRE THE GENEROUS OFFER OF FOREIGN MINISTER BAC TO
MEET PERSONALLY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NORTH VIET NAM TO
NEGOTIATE STEP-BY-STEP NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH
AND SOUTH VIET NAM. I NOTE THE OFFER RECENTLY MADE IN PARIS BY THE
REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM OF A NEW PLAN TO HOLD THE GENERAL ELECTIONS

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PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. I HOPE THE OTHER SIDE WILL

RECONSIDER THEIR REJECTION OF THESE PROPOSALS AND OF MEASURES PROPOSED

BY THIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE CEASEFIRE MORE EFFECTIVE SO THAT A STABLE PEACE MAY AT LAST BE ACHIEVED.

4. IN THE MEANTIME MASSIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT CONTINUE, INCLUDING THE BUILDUP OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AND WEAPONS IN SOUTH VIET NAM. I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM TO CONTAIN THIS THREAT. I MUST ALSO EXPRESS MY ADMIRATION FOR WHAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS ACHIEVED IN CARING FOR ITS PEOPLE AND DEVELOPING THE NATION EVEN UNDER THE STRAINS OF WAR. THERE IS EVERY REASON FOR CONFIDENCE IN THE WELFARE AND PROSPERITY OF THIS COUNTRY IF IT HAS ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN ADJUSTING TO AN ECONOMY OF PEACE.

5. IT IS U.S. POLICY TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND BUILD A BETTER LIFE. JUST EIGHT DAYS AGO IN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT NIXON SIGNED A PROCLAMATION ON THE OCCASION OF VIET NAM VETERANS' DAY. HE SAID THEN, "OUR PART WILL IN THE FUTURE BE UNDER THE NIXON DOCTRINE NOT TO FURNISH TROOPS, BUT WITHIN OUR CAPABILITIES AND DEPENDING ON THEIR ABILITY TO USE IT, TO FURNISH THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPLIES SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET NAM CAN HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES."

6. THIS WE WILL DO. END TEXT.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMISTICE, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON02844
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740367/aaaackfy.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH: DEPARTURE STATEMENT (VIET NAM)
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, PINS, PINT, VS, US, (RUSH, KENNETH)
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005